

CASTLE PROPOSES NATIONAL PARK STATE QUARTER SERIES -- June 10, 2008

Says
Program Could Reflect Same Success as 50 State
Quarters

Philadelphia,
PA and Washington, DC -- Based on the successful 50-state quarters program, Congressman Mike Castle (R-DE) stood in front of Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia on Monday and the U.S. Capitol in Washington, DC today to introduce a new quarter series to honor National Parks and other historic sites. This legislation, America's Beautiful National Parks Quarter Dollar Coin Act of 2008 (H.R. 6184), would begin circulation of quarter dollar coins that are emblematic of a national park or other historic site in each State, the District of Columbia, and each territory of the United States. Rep. Castle believes that this program will be another successful initiative for the U.S. Mint along with numismatists, students, and all Americans.

"I authored the 50 State Commemorative Coin Act more than a decade ago," Rep. Castle said. "There has been wonderful feedback from students, educators, and coin collectors. Even people who had never stopped to notice their coins before were eager to see what image would be on the next quarter. The U.S. Mint estimates that the state quarter program will make more than \$6.2 billion in revenue, \$3.7 billion more than regular quarters alone. Washington is constantly spending money, but it is rare for a government program to generate funds for the U.S. Treasury. Another coin series I am proud to have established is the Presidential \$1 Coin Program- which has also produced general revenue funds for the U.S.

"This new series has the potential to be just as successful as the state quarter program. The bill instructs the U.S. Mint to issue five new quarter designs per year for the fifty states, D.C., and the U.S. Territories. This new program would give us an exciting way to honor our national parks and historic sites, such as Yellowstone or Yosemite National Park or maybe even the Liberty Bell or the U.S. Capitol."

At today's press conference Rep. Castle was joined by Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), an original co-sponsor of the bill and fellow member of the Financial Services Committee.

"The 50-state quarter program has been a tremendous success. This new coin program would give us an exciting new way to continue highlighting the unique diversity of our 50 states by honoring a national park or historic site in each of them and putting it on a coin," said Rep. Maloney. "Heads or tails, this bill is a win for each our national parks,

states, and our country. It has been an honor to work with my good friend Mr. Castle again on this bill, and I appreciate his leadership."

Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-IL), also an original co-sponsor of the bill, issued the following statement following today's press conference.

"I am proud to support this legislation, which not only honors our Nation's natural and historic treasures, but also benefits the United States Treasury and taxpayer by generating a unique source of revenue," said Rep. Luis V. Gutierrez, Chair of the Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy, Trade and Technology. "I am also pleased that our nation's Capital will be appropriately recognized with its own commemorative quarter. It is only appropriate that, in paying tribute to our history, we recognize the city that has been at the center of law and justice since the days of George Washington himself."

These coins will be issued in the order the National Park or historical site was designated. Sites are not limited to National Parks; they may also feature a wildlife refuge or historical place. In deciding which location to place on the coin, the Secretary of the Treasury will make the final decision after consulting with the Secretary of the Interior and state governors about which location should be chosen for each coin.

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